

STATEMENT SUMMARIZING INTERVIEW

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 26, 2007. Claims 1 to 12 and 14 to 16 are in the application, of which Claim 1 is still the only independent claim. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In their Response filed October 26, 2007, the Applicants herein traversed the outstanding rejection of the claims, namely, the rejection over U.S. Patent 6,574,742 (Jamroga) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0099652 (Herzen) or in view of Herzen and U.S. Patent 5,851,186 (Wood). As part of the traversal, the Applicants argued that the applied art did not show access to stored digital medical image data that was shared between a payer and an individual other than the payer. The PTO issued an Advisory Action dated November 28, 2007, taking the position (among other things) that "shared" access was not claimed. Since in Applicants' view shared access is very clearly claimed, and since in Applicants' view there were other defects in the final rejection, an interview was conducted to discuss the case.

The interview was conducted by telephone on December 13, 2007, by Examiner Dilek Cobanoglu and her Supervisor, Mr. Robert Morgan. The Applicants thank Examiner Cobanoglu and Mr. Morgan for the courtesies and thorough treatment afforded to their undersigned representative during the interview. A statement summarizing the interview follows.

During the interview, a proposed claim amendment was discussed so as to emphasize the shared nature of the access by the payer and the individual other than the payer. It was explained that the applied art did not show access that was shared: Jamroga contemplates access to stored medical image data by only a single person, namely the participant who pays for such access, and Herzen likewise discloses access by only a single individual, namely the payee. As such, even when viewed in the combination proposed in the Office Action, there is not access shared by both a payer and an individual other than the payer, wherein the individual other than the payer is provided with access by the step of forwarding access from the payer.

In response, Examiner Cobanoglu and Mr. Morgan suggested to include additional features, found in paragraph [0069] of the subject application, concerning the nature of forwarding access. Based on this suggestion, the claims have been amended to include the subject matter of dependent Claim 13, which specifies that the other individual is notified that access has been forwarded to him, together with information on how to access it. In addition, the claims have been amended so as to specify that the payer accesses the stored digital medical image data via “an authorization process”, and that this authorization process is also applied against the other individual.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claims herein define subject matter that would not have been obvious from any permissible combination of the applied art, and allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael K. O'Neill", written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants
Michael K. O'Neill
Registration No.: 32,622

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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